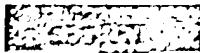


NATIONAL SECURITY FILE
Box 81
Germany - Berlin - General, 5/61

NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL

May 17, 1961



Mac -

Of all the problems the administration faces, Berlin seems to me the most pregnant with disaster. The importance of the stakes and the direct confrontation of U.S. and Soviet forces make this a more likely casus belli than anything else on the horizon.

The DOD submission on conventional forces would have us neglect the last opportunity we will have before the FY 1963 budget to enhance our capability to deal with - and thus perhaps to deter - a Berlin crisis.

This aspect of the DOD submission seems to me important enough to be brought explicitly to the President's attention when he considers that submission.

Hence the attached two page memorandum.

DECLASSIFIED		Henry Owen
NYC 11A	(MUR 78-630)	
By HOM	NARS Date 10/22/80	

3 copies

